

## A New Species of *Megaselia* Rondani (Diptera: Phoridae) from Northamptonshire

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Among some scuttle flies obtained in emergence traps set over soil in pastures by Dr. R. O. Clements and Dr. I. F. Henderson, are three specimens of a new species of *Megaselia* Rondani. The species is described below and named after Dr. Henderson.

### *Megaselia hendersoni* sp. n.

♂ Frons broader than high at eye-margin (1.3-1.6 : 1) and dark brown to black in colour and with about 80 scattered hairs. Lower supra-antennals 0.03-0.04 mm apart and measuring only 0.07--0.08 mm in length. Upper S.A.'s situated 0.03-0.04 mm above the lower, placed 0.06-0.07 mm apart, and measuring 0.15 mm in length. The pre-ocellars are 0.08-0.11 mm apart. The antials are situated 0.05-0.06 mm from the upper S.A.'s and 0.05 mm from the antero-laterals, which are only 0.1-0.2 mm from the eye margin. The antials are very slightly below a line joining each antero-lateral to the upper S.A. Palps pale yellow with half-a-dozen bristles along the ventral distal margin. The longest bristle measures 0.11 mm. Antennae with third segment brown and greatest diameter only 0.12-0.13 mm. Arista also brown. Labellar lobes pale yellow.

Thorax dark brown dorsally but paler brown on sides. Mesopleuron bare. Scutellum with a pair of bristles and an anterior pair of short hairs. Haltere with dark stem and yellow knob with some darkened areas around apex. Abdomen with tergites dark brown to black, except for slightly paler fifth and sixth tergites, and with scattered hairs, which are more conspicuous along posterior borders. Those near the posterior border of the fifth tergite are longer, and those on the posterior border of the sixth are conspicuous and measure 0.09-0.10 mm in length. Belly dark with hairs, which are particularly conspicuous on the fifth and sixth segments. Terminalia (Fig. 1) distinctive, being short and tall, with a short anal tube. A pair of strong setae (clearly more robust than the posterior setae of the sixth tergite) situated near the posterior-ventral corner of the left side of the epandrium, just above the unusual ventral 'keel' of the latter, are distinctive. There is a single weaker, but still strong, seta in the same position on the right side. The epandrium is brownish with its 'keel' being yellowish. Ventral plate and anal tube dusky yellow.

Legs dusky yellow, with tarsi hind tibia and especially apex of hind femur being darker. Dorsal hair palisade of mid-tibia extends only threequarters of its length. Hind tibia with about 16 postero-dorsal setae, which are short but more robust in the distal two-thirds. 7-9 hairs on ventral face of basal half of hind femur. The longest measures 0.08-0.09 mm in length.

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Wing. 1.81 mm in length in holotype, and 1.72 mm in paratype. Costal Index 0.46-0.47 in holotype and 0.45-0.46 paratype. Costal Ratios 2.81 : 1.79 : 1 in holotype and 3.09 : 1.9 : 1 in paratype. Costal cilia 0.08-0.10 mm long. A small hair at base of vein 3. Axillary ridge with two bristles. Veins yellowish, 7 being faint. Membrane slightly greyish.

♀ Head very similar to male but with third joint of antenna a little smaller (greatest diameter about 0.10 mm). Thorax as in male but a little paler. Haltere paler than in male. Abdomen with brown tergites and dark belly. Segments 7 and 8 well developed and the latter with a conspicuous posterior circle of setae measuring 0.08-0.09 mm in length. Legs a little paler than in male. Wing (Fig. 2) similar to male but length only 1.57 mm. Costal Index 0.47. Costal ratios 2.95 : 1.81 : 1.

Holotype ♂, Northamptonshire College of Agriculture, Moulton (Grid Ref. 42/777667), 29th July 1974, C. O. Clements and I. F. Henderson. Deposited in collection of author.

Paratypes. One ♂, 6th May 1974 and one ♀ 9th July 1974, same locality and other data as holotype.

In the keys of Lunbeck (1922) this species runs to Group VI couplet 22, and thus resembles *M. collini* (Wood).

The male hypopygium immediately distinguishes *M. hendersoni* from this and all species (described since Lundbeck's keys) that key out near *M. collini* (e.g. *M. incongruens* Schmitz, *M. phoenicura* Schmitz, and *M. intergeriva* Schmitz). Lundbeck's keys are in much need of revision so that while *M. hendersoni* can be readily recognised in the male sex the female is likely to be difficult to recognise with certainty. However, the development of segments 7 and 8 along with the prominent circle of posterior setae on the latter segment will readily distinguish it from species such as *M. rubella* Schmitz.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### Reference

- Lundbeck, W., 1922. *Diptera Danica*, Part VI Pipunculidae. Phoridae. 355 pp. Gad, Copenhagen.

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THE BLACK RUSTIC: APOROPHYLA NIGRA HAWORTH IN KENT. — On the morning of 26th September 1979 I was pleasantly surprised to find a specimen of *nigra* in my garden trap, the first time I have seen this insect in N.W. Kent. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 2: 286) cites only three confirmed examples from Kent: East Malling, Dungeness and Folkestone. The moth has become more numerous in the adjacent County of Surrey in recent years, and it is perhaps of interest to quote Evans (*Survey of the Macrolepidoptera of Croydon and N.E. Surrey*: 374) who states “. . . the records for N.E. Surrey suggest that this insect is extending its range across the county from the west”. — P. A. SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Orpington, Kent.